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1951



BOROUGH OF CHIPPENHAM

THE

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

and

S E N I O R S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R

for the

YEAR ENDING 31st. DECEMBER

- 1 9 5 1 -

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

C.L. Broomhead, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

also Medical Officer of Health for the Boroughs
of Calne and Malmesbury, and the Rural Districts
of Calne & Chippenham and Malmesbury.

(b) SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

S.F. French, Sanitary Inspector's Cert. R.S.I.

Meat & Other Foods Inspector's Cert. R.S.I.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR.

R.P. Pengelly, Sanitary Inspector's Cert. S.I.E.J.B.,

Meat & Other Foods Inspector's Cert. R.S.I.

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To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Chippenham Town Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report
for the year ended 31st. December, 1951.

The general high standard of health in the
Borough was maintained throughout the year by the large
amount of routine inspection and supervision carried out
by the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The pattern of infectious disease appears to
be changing. Diphtheria, thanks to immunisation is fast
disappearing. A large proportion of infants are not
vaccinated against Smallpox. This is to be regretted as
the speed of present day communications permits the entry
into the country of patients during the incubating period
of the disease. The disease therefore falls on fertile
ground.

The exciting cause of practically all
illness has now been discovered and there would appear to
be no justification for an attitude of mind which looks
upon illness as inevitable. Local Authorities, Acts of
Parliament, etc. all contribute to Public Health, but it
should not be forgotten that each member of the community
has also a personal responsibility for his own state of
health and well being.

I would like to record my thanks to the
Senior Sanitary Inspector and Office Staff for their
co-operation and assistance during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.L. BROOMHEAD,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,197
Population	..	..	..	..	..	..	11,310
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1951 according to Rate Book)	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,543
Rateable Value (as at 1.4.51)	..	..	..	..	..	..	£79,987
Sum represented by Penny Rate (estimated)	..	..	..	..	..	..	£318.

VITAL STATISTICS.LIVE BIRTHS

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	63	73	136
Illegitimate	5	6	11
Total Live Births	68	79	147
Birth Rate for the Borough	..	..	..12.4 per 1000 of the population.
Comparative Rate for England & Wales	..	..	..15.5 per 1000 of the population.

The Birth Rate and the Comparative Rate for England and Wales shew a slight decrease as compared with the estimate for 1950 when the Birth Rate for the Borough was 12.8 per 1000 of the population. The Comparative Rate for England and Wales was 15.8 per 1000 of the population.

STILL BIRTHS

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	1	4	5
Illegitimate	-	1	1
Total Still Births	1	5	6
Rate per 1000 of the population	..	..	.. 0.508
Comparative Rate per 1000 of the population for England and Wales	..	..	.. 0.36

The above table of Still Births indicates a slight increase over the 1950 statistics when four still births were recorded giving a rate per 1000 of the population of 0.31.

DEATHS

	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	77	80	157
Death Rate for the Borough			<u>13.2</u> per 1000 of the population.
Comparative Rate for England & Wales			<u>12.5</u> per 1000 of the population.

The Death Rate for the Borough indicates an increase over the rate for the year 1950 when it was 10.0 per 1000 of the population.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	-	2	2
Tuberculosis (other)	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis	-	1	1
Measles	-	-	-
Other Infective and parasitic diseases.	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm stomach	3	1	4
Malignant neoplasm			
bronchus	3	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	3	8
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	1	3	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	10	13
Coronary disease angina	9	4	13
Hypertension with heart dis.	-	1	1
Other heart diseases.	16	31	47
Other circulatory diseases	5	2	7
Influenza	1	1	2
Pneumonia	3	1	4
Bronchitis	4	4	8
Other diseases of resp.sys.	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	-	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoeal	-	-	1
Nephritis & Nephrosis	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	2	-	2
Other defined & ill defined dis.ll		10	21
Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	-	4
All other accidents	2	-	2
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide & operations of war	-	-	-
Total all causes.	<u>77</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>157</u>

It will be seen from the above table that Coronary disease and Heart Disease contribute largely to the causes of death. Coronary disease, particularly in males still figures prominently. Deaths from malignant disease remain fairly constant

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:

Table "A"

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	4	3	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total:-	4	3	7

Infant Mortality Rate:-

Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age
per 1,000 live births 47.6

Comparative figure for England & Wales 29.6

Causes of death of infants shown in Table "A" are as follows:-

Cerebral haemorrhage	3
Prematurity	1
Atelectasis	1
Ac. Laryngo-tracheo Bronchitis ..	1
Congenital Malformations	<u>1</u>
Total:-	<u>7</u>

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:

Table "B"

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total:-	4	2	6

It should be noted that the figures shown in Table "B" have already been included in Table "A" above.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the Infectious Diseases notified during 1951 as compared with 1949 and 1950.

DISEASE	1949		1950		1951	
	a	b	a	b	a	b
Scarlet Fever	14	14	17	17	26	25
Whooping Cough	24	24	22	22	47	47
Diphtheria	3	-	1	-	-	-
Measles	17	17	87	87	188	188
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	1	1
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	4	2	-	-	8	2
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	1	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	1	1	1
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	3	1	4	-	-	-
Erysipelas	2	2	1	1	3	3
Pneumonia	7	7	7	7	2	2
Cerebro-spinal Fever.	1	1	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	76	69	141	136	277	270

Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough and Measles all show some increase. Of the nine cases of Infantile Paralysis notified, only three were subsequently confirmed, and of these only one case of actual paralysis resulted.

Certain contacts of Smallpox were investigated and the necessary surveillance put into effect.

It is gratifying that not a single case of Diphtheria occurred. To maintain this satisfactory state of health, it is essential that Diphtheria Immunisation be maintained at a high level. It is estimated that only 28% of children throughout the country are immunised before their first birthday.

No individual cases or major outbreaks of food poisoning were notified. Some improvement in clean food handling and distribution has probably contributed to this desirable result. The recommendations contained in the Report of the Catering Trade Working Party on "Hygiene in Catering Establishments" deserve early consideration however if a high standard is to be maintained.

"a" - Numbers originally notified.

"b" - Final numbers after correction.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Distribution According to Age
Notifications received during 1951 - Corrected figures.

<u>DISEASE</u>	under 1 year	1 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 25	25-45	45-65	Over 65	Unknown	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever.	-	9	13	2	-	-	-	1	25
Whooping Cough.	2	22	20	-	-	-	-	1	47
Diphtheria.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.	4	74	107	1	1	-	-	1	188
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Dysentery.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Smallpox.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	3
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
Cerebral Spinal Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:	6	107	141	3	6	1	1	3	270

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases of tuberculosis notified and confirmed by the County Chest Physician during the year show a decrease as compared with previous years:

NEW CASES DURING

YEAR	PULMONARY	NON-PULMONARY	TOTAL
1948	12	1	13
1949	10	3	13
1950	6	2	8
1951	6	1	7

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1951 ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Resp		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5								
15	1							
25						1		
35	2					1		
45	1							
55	2	1				1		
65 upwards								
TOTALS:-	6	1	-	-	-	2	-	-

The above figures are too small to permit of any conclusions. It should be understood that they do not represent the total number of individuals suffering from Tuberculosis within the Borough. In addition to the new cases notified each year, a certain proportion of tuberculous individuals either move into the Borough, or move out. Remaining on the Register of Tuberculous Persons at the end of 1951, were the following cases:-

	Male	Female	Total
<u>PULMONARY</u>	22	14	36
<u>NON-PULMONARY</u>	4	16	20

Although Sect. 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946 places the responsibility for the after care of Tuberculous patients upon County and County Borough Councils, the environment; ie. housing, of the tuberculous patient can be determined by Borough and District Councils as the Housing Authority. In order that treatment can be carried out at home, and to diminish the spread of infection, adequate and satisfactory housing accommodation is of vital importance. The wisdom of the Borough Council in rehousing nine cases of tuberculosis will be reflected in the future welfare of these patients and the community at large.

The Public Health (Leprosy) Regulations, 1951.

These Regulations came into operation on the 22nd. June, 1951, and require a medical practitioner attending, or called in to visit a person suffering from leprosy to notify the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health direct, without reference to the District Medical Officer of Health.

Although representations were made to the Minister of Health, he did not see his way to amend the Regulations. The Minister contended that the sensitiveness of the Leprosy patient deters him or his doctor from revealing the nature of his complaint locally. This is not understood as no doubt the medical records of such a case will be known to both the staff of the Regional Hospital Board and National Insurance Office. Records held in the office of a Medical Officer of Health are less likely to be made public.

The National Assistance Act, 1948

Sec. 47 Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

Elderly folk should preferably remain in their own homes and surroundings. They are happier and provided they are not suffering or neglected, the provision of a Home Help usually meets all requirements.

Statutory action to enforce removal to a suitable Hospital or Institution is only considered after the assistance provided by Home Helps, Health Visitors and Welfare Officers has failed to provide the care and attention required.

The National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951 came into operation on the 1st. September, 1951. This simplifies the legal procedure set out in the original Act of 1948. The aged and infirm in urgent need of care and attention may now be dealt with expeditiously by the Medical Officer of Health, duly authorised by the Local Authority, and another registered medical practitioner.

Apart from the provision of a Home Help in one case, no further action under the above Acts was required.

HOUSING.

During the year, ninety four applications for tenancies of Council Houses were brought to my notice for review on medical grounds in accordance with the Council's Points Scheme. Where it was evident that the particular illness or disability was attributable to, or aggravated by the applicant's living conditions, recommendations were made to the Tenancy Selection Committee for the award of an appropriate number of points on medical grounds.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following children received Primary Immunisations during 1951:-

Under 1 yr 59; Ages 1-4 yrs 89; Ages 5-14 6; Total 154

Total Immunised child population at 31.12.51

Ages 0-4 yrs. 693; Ages 5 - 14 yrs. 2097; Total 2790

I am grateful to Mr. C.R. Phillips, Borough Surveyor for the following information on Water Supplies and Sewage Disposal.

WATER SUPPLIES - Present Position.

The Council's Water Undertaking has produced an average of 1,750,000 gallons per day throughout the year. This output is within the possible yield of the borehole sources at Westmead and Ivyfields, Chippenham.

The quantity and quality have been satisfactory. Precautionary chlorination of .2 parts per million continues to be carried out at the Council's Pumping Stations.

The water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

During 1951 the distribution of the daily output of the Undertaking has been effected as follows:-

	<u>1,000 gallons per day.</u>
Bulk supplies to Calne & Chippenham Rural District Council	430
Bulk supplies to the Bradford and Melksham Rural District Council	20
Bulk supplies to the Trowbridge and Melksham Water Board	110
Bulk supplies to the Government Establishments in Hawthorn	337
Local Industrial Supplies	235
Chippenham area of supply	<u>618</u>
Total:-	<u>1750.</u>

The Draft Byelaws for the prevention of waste of water etc. have been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and their preliminary observations have been received. The submission of the final draft byelaws is postponed pending discussions by the Ministry and authorities concerned of one or two byelaws contained in the model. When these discussions are completed, the Byelaws will be submitted for approval.

Construction work is well advanced in the laying of the 9" diameter Trunk Water Main from the High Level Reservoir in order to augment the supply to the North Eastern area of the Borough.

Future Schemes

Final details of the contract for the sinking of the new Borehole in the Patterdown area are being discussed with the Geological Survey so that tenders for this work can be invited. It is hoped that these details will be settled early in 1952, so that the sinking of the Borehole can proceed.

The Borough Engineer has recommended the Council to make application to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for an Order under Sec. 14 of the Water Act, 1945. At the time of writing, the Ministry has replied that it was the opinion of the Ministry's technical advisers that

WATER SUPPLIES (Contd.)

there was at present no justification for prescribing under Section 14 to the area in the plans submitted by the Council. The Town Council feel that further representation should be made to obtain this Order and have instructed the Officers accordingly.

Analyses of Water.

The following are typical of reports of chemical and bacteriological examinations of water from the distribution system.

SALISBURY AREA PATHOLOGICAL SERVICE

Pathological Department

The General Infirmary
SALISBURY.

REPORT ON BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER

Water sample received on 16.10.51 at 9.30 from

Chippenham Town Council
Council Offices,
Market Place,
Chippenham.
Standpipe.

1. BACTERIOLOGICAL COUNT.

Total colonies growing on agar at 37°C in 48 hrs. NIL
per 1 m.l. of water.

2. B. COLI COUNTS at 37°C in 48 hrs. and 44°C in 48 hrs.

Quantity of water Tested.	Acid and gas from lactose									
	at 37°C					44°C				
Five tubes 10 ml water	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Five tubes 1 ml water	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

As result of calculation made from above:-

- (1) Number of Coli Aerogenes per 100 m.l. growing at 37°C NIL.
- (2) Number of Faecal Types of B.Coli per 100 m.l. growing at 44°C NIL

OPINION:-

Bacteriological examination shows no evidence of bacterial pollution.

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES.

66 Victoria Street,
London, S.W.1.

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received 29.1.52. from the
Borough of Chippenham. Labelled No. 4 Borehole, Westmead.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Appearance:- Bright with very few mineral particles.
Turbidity:- Less than 3: Colour:- Nil.
Odour:- Nil: PH 7.3: Free Carbon Dioxide:- 18.
Electric Conductivity:- 700: Total Solids:- 470
Chlorine present as
Chloride:- 66: Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate:-255
Hardness:- Total 340: Carbonate:- 255: Non-Carbonate:- 85.
Nitrate Nitrogen:- 0.0: Nitrite Nitrogen:- Less than 0.01.
Ammoniacal Nitrogen:- 0.000: Oxygen Absorbed:- 0.10.
Albuminoid Nitrogen:- 0.000: Residual Chloride:- ...
Metals:- Absent.

Samples of the raw and treated water were taken
regularly during the year for bacteriological examination.
In all cases the samples were reported as showing no
evidence of pollution.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Refuse collection is carried out by two vehicles,
ie. a Lewin Compressing Refuse Collecting Machine and a new
covered Refuse Collecting Vehicle. The collection of
ordinary house and trade refuse is completed in just over
three days of every week. Additional collections are made
at premises where food is handled, such as cafes, fish shops
etc.

The Town Council make dustbins available to the
public at a reasonable cost and a fair proportion of house-
holders take advantage of this service.

Disposal of Refuse

Refuse is disposed by controlled tipping at two
sites, the Cuttings, Bath Road and the unused river cut at
Westmead. The latter site is used for Summer tipping, and
the former during the winter months. Nuisances are
controlled by covering refuse with soil and used moulding
sand from the local factory, the use of tip dressing and the
frequent eradication of rats, the latter being carried out
under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr.
French.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Satisfactory treatment of sewage at the Westmead Sewage Disposal Works continues, and the purity of the effluent and the operation of the sludge digesting tanks are examined regularly by Mr. Hill, Sewage Works Chemist, Corsham. The general discharge of a satisfactory effluent is only obtained by the continuous recirculation of liquids within the works.

This is not altogether a satisfactory state in which to operate these works, mainly because the quantities of liquid being received at the works are in excess of the quantities for which the works were designed. The omission of certain units of treatment as the result of the restriction of capital expenditure at the time the works were constructed has now resulted in the difficulties described above. In addition, much development has taken place during the past few years in the area drained to these works. It will, therefore, be necessary for the Town Council to consider some additions to the works in the near future.

The disposal of sludge continues to be a problem. Shortage of labour and lack of suitable disposal points for the dried sludge constitute the main difficulties.

Patterdown Sewage Works.

A scheme for the improvement of the works is in preparation, but in the meantime a satisfactory effluent is discharged into the Pudding Brook, half a mile from the main river channel.

Sewers.

During the year extensions to the Sewerage System were carried out to serve the areas developed for housing purposes. The policy of carrying out an entirely separate sewerage system in all the newly developed areas continues. A general drainage scheme for the district is under preparation whenever staff can be diverted from more urgent work.

R E P O R T

of the

S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R

-.-.-.-.-.

TO:- The Mayor, Aldermen and Members
of the Chippenham Town Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present a Report of the
work carried out in my department during the year, 1951.

The tables and particulars conform to the
Ministry's Regulations and requirements.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

S.F. FRENCH,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

805 inspections were made of premises in connection with Housing and Nuisances, and as a result 158 notices were served requiring the abatement of nuisances and housing repairs. 5 Statutory Notices were served and complied with.

HOUSING.

No Demolition Orders were made and no Clearance Areas declared during the year under review.

The demolition of an unfit house places the Council under a moral, if not a legal obligation to provide alternative accommodation for the displaced tenants, thus it will be appreciated that statutory action in this respect offers no satisfactory solution to the problem at the present time.

Concerning repair work, the absolute minimum is being asked for. Action taken is confined to the securing of a weathertight structure and a reasonable standard of internal maintenance. One must pay tribute to property owners and estate agents for their co-operation in attending to the repair work requested. Usually there is no need to resort to formal notices.

Rent increases as a means to help to solve the house repair problem have been suggested. These would cause hardship in many cases, but this seems inescapable if existing accommodation is to be maintained in a reasonable state of repair.

No applications for Improvement Grants were received under the Housing Act, 1949.

Two houses were demolished during the year in accordance with the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936.

Overcrowding is not a serious problem in this area. Only one case of statutory overcrowding was on record in a non-Council house when the year ended. A recent survey of Council houses has revealed 32 cases of overcrowding. 12 by $\frac{1}{2}$ unit, 8 by 1 unit, 8 by $1\frac{1}{2}$ units, 3 by 2 units and 1 by $2\frac{1}{2}$ units.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The following sites were used during the year:-

Foghamshire	3
Sheldon Rd	1
Hungerdown Lane	1
Bath Road	1

The Council is giving consideration to the provision of suitable sites for caravan homes, and these, if provided, will, I am sure, be appreciated by those people who are having to live in caravans because of the acute housing shortage.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

	Number on Register.	Inspns.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted
<u>PREMISES.</u>				
1. Factories in which secs.1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.'s.	9	3	3	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A.'s.	59	16	8	-
3. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the LA. (except out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:-	68	19	11	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

<u>PARTICULARS.</u>	Cases in which defects found					Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	found.	Remedied.	Referred TO H.M. Insp.	Referred BY H.M. Insp.		
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	8	8	-	-		-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-		-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	2	2		2		-
TOTAL:-	11	11	-	2		-

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection was carried out in 23 homes after infectious diseases. Bedding and similar articles are treated by steam when this is considered necessary. No charge is made for fumigation or steam disinfection when this is done because of infectious disease.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN.

Few cases of verminous infestations were dealt with. The incidence of bug infestation appears to decrease year by year. D.D.T. and Gammexane Insecticides were used and were successful in the cases dealt with.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN (Continued)

The ponds at the rear of Lowden Avenue and Audley Road were sprayed with Kerosene on two occasions during the summer as a control measure against mosquitoes.

RODENT CONTROL.

The methods used have, on the whole, become standardised throughout the country, and are as recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Poisons used are Zinc Phosphide, Arsenious Oxide, Warfarin and A.N.T.U.

The sewers, brooks and sewage outfall works are now treated as a routine measure twice yearly, the refuse tip is closely watched and treated as often as may be necessary.

The following details are in the form required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries:-

Measure of Control by Local Authority.					TOTAL
	Type of Property.				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business and Industrial).	
1. Total number of properties in L.A.'s district.	11	3528	15	279	3833
2. Number of properties inspected by the L.A. during 1951 as a result (a) of notification or (b) otherwise.	(a) 1	21	2	18	42
	(b) 7	5	1	4	17
3. Number of properties (under 2) found to be infested by rats.	<u>Minor</u> 6	22	1	17	46
	<u>Major</u> 2	1	1		4
4. Number of properties (under 2) found to be seriously infested by mice.	-	-	-	-	-
5. Number of infested properties (under 3 and 4) treated by the Local Authority.	8	23	2	17	50

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

There are no premises within the area to which the registration or licensing provisions of this Act apply.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Both Bacon Factories are now operating. The Wiltshire Bacon Company, during the year, slaughtered some 47,973 pigs on their premises. Messrs. Spear Bros. and

MEAT INSPECTION (Continued)

Clark re-opened their premises on July 10th., and their kill was 3,446 pigs up to the end of the year. I found the latter company ready to co-operate, and many improvements to aid the hygienic handling of their foodstuffs were carried out.

The other slaughterhouses in Chippenham are controlled by the Ministry of Food and serve the areas of the Rural Districts of Calne & Chippenham, Devizes and the Boroughs of Calne, Chippenham and Devizes, a population of approximately 70,000.

The Council followed up their enquiry of the previous year to the Ministry of Food by asking if further consideration could be given to the construction of a new slaughterhouse, or alternatively, if the provision of a municipal slaughterhouse would fit in with the Ministry's long term policy. The Ministry upheld that although it had been decided to build seven new slaughterhouses in areas where additional slaughterhouses were most urgently required, approval could not be given to the construction of a new Slaughterhouse at Chippenham.

The vehicles used for the transport of meat in this area have been maintained in fair condition. The interior surfaces, including the floors, are of impervious material, capable of being easily cleansed. The vehicles can be totally closed when meat is being transported, and are provided with metal containers for the transport of offal. There are, of course, occasional lapses by the men employed on these lorries and there have been occasions when the lorries have been returned to the Depot to be cleansed, but taken on the whole the service was reasonable.

MEAT INSPECTION REPORT.

The report of the Interdepartmental Committee on Meat Inspection has now been published, and represents the findings of a very thorough investigation.

The report describes arrangements for the inspection of meat in the country, and deals with the purpose and methods of inspection, the problems arising, and the qualifications and training of Meat Inspectors.

Detailed proposals regarding the construction, equipment and operation of slaughterhouses to secure the maintenance of satisfactory standards of hygiene in the slaughtering and dressing of carcasses, have been drawn up.

This report directs attention to the importance of cleanliness in places where meat products are stored and sold. It is recommended that registration be extended to the whole of the retail butchery trade related to the suitability of the premises and equipment. It is hoped eventually to put an end to the use of stalls in the open air for the sale of meat.

A matter which has caused us some concern of recent years has been the vehicles used for the transport of meat. In this connection the Committee recommends:-

"That, when operators can reasonably be expected to comply with them, regulations should be made requiring that vehicles used for meat transport should have such facilities for loading and unloading as would minimise the need for walking on the floor of the vehicle; that they should be

MEAT INSPECTION REPORT (Continued).

capable of being easily and thoroughly cleansed; that they should have impervious and non-slip floors; that they should not be equipped with loose tarpaulins for covering the meat; that they should be provided with suitable metal containers, designed for easy cleaning, for the transport of offal."

It is also recommended that the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, should be amended to require protective clothing to be worn by persons delivering meat to retail butchers' shops, and that when sufficient materials are available meat, which is to be transported by rail or road, should be wrapped.

In the matter of vehicles and clothing for meat porters we have shown active interest in recent years, and it is good to know that regulations are likely to be made to deal formally with them.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED 1951.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	1733	1110	8286	6155	52210
Number inspected.	1733	1110	8286	6155	52210
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u> Whole carcasses condemned	6	26	128	40	46
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned.	364	317	12	469	1607
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis.	21.35	30.9	1.68	8.26	3.16
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u> Whole carcasses condemned	5	18	1	-	80
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned.	154	190	-	-	3403
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	9.17	18.75	.01	-	6.67

MEAT CONDEMNED (HOME KILLED) DURING 1951.

BOVINES

	T.	C.	Q.	L.
55 Carcases	18	8	2	17
233 Heads	3	6	2	8
28 Forequarters	1	18	0	3
4 Hindquarters	0	4	3	4
753 Livers plus 92 part livers . . .	3	8	0	25
248 Plucks	1	12	3	1
Melts	0	0	3	15
Skirts	0	0	3	18
Meat	1	4	1	23
Other offal.	2	14	3	14

PIGS

126 Carcases	9	0	0	2
1663 Heads	10	10	2	12
Offal	13	19	1	18
Meat	6	2	3	10

SHEEP

40 Carcases	0	16	3	4
Meat	0	2	0	0
Offal	0	11	3	1

CALVES.

129 Carcases	2	8	3	12
Offal	0	0	0	5
Veal	0	0	3	24

TOTAL:-

76	13	1	20
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MISCELLANEOUS GOODS CONDEMNED DURING 1951.

MEAT.

1361 tins Meat.
298 lbs. Corned beef.
546 lbs. Canned Ham.
16 lbs. Smoked Gammon.

Miscellaneous goods.

279 lbs. Mincemeat.
72 pudding mixtures
1,755 Jellies.
152 boxes cheese.
20 ozs. processed cheese
31 tins soup.
13 lbs. jam.
38 tins jam.
1 lb. marmalade.
3 tins marmalade
4 Xmas puddings.
9 bottles coffee
4 boxes fruit squash
103 pkts. sweets.
47 lbs. sweets.
28 lbs. macaroni
13 lbs. chitterlings
3 pkts. cornflakes
1 tin syrup
4 tins choc. biscuits.
3 tins Barley food.
1 tin plum pudding
8 jars sandwich spread
100 pkts. cake mixture
4 tins sugar
2 tins shredded coconut.

FRUIT.

751 tins of Fruit.

VEG.

499 tins Veg.

FISH.

41 tins Fish.

MILK.

147 tins of milk.

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS.

In November, 1948, a circular was received from the Ministry of Food, referring to the reported occurrence of cysticercus bovis infestations of cattle in several areas of Great Britain. Routine examination of beef carcasses and offals is necessary to detect the parasites. Cysticercus Bovis is the cystic stage of taenia saginata, the tapeworm of man, and the danger to human beings consuming infested meat will be realised. During the year fifty three cases were found and were dealt with in accordance with the Ministry's recommendations.

FOOD HYGIENE.

194 inspections were made of premises preparing and retailing foodstuffs. 33 notices were served dealing with sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, cleanliness of premises etc. The stalls retailing foodstuffs in the Wharf Market were also inspected weekly.

There is ample scope for educational work in the aspect of hygienic requirements in the catering industry. Community feeding offers many possibilities for the transmission of infection to man, and in recent years cases of sickness arising from infections have attracted considerable notice. Adequate care of food on the premises, and high standards of cleanliness, particularly of personnel, are essential factors in preventing infection. Every opportunity is taken to discuss these matters with the people concerned, and it is in this way we have attempted to secure the co-operation not only of the management but also of those employed in the Catering Establishments of this town.

In December the Council, on the suggestion of the Ministry of Food, authorised display notices to be issued to all food traders asking that in the interest of hygiene, members of the public should not bring their dogs into food shops. The food traders were glad to co-operate in this way, and many expressed approval that the request was "official". In the shops the notices were prominently displayed, and are still on view.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Number of distributors with premises in the Borough	9	
Number of distributors with premises outside the Borough	2	11
Number of T.T. Dealers		6
Number of Pasteurisation Plants		2
Number of samples taken of Designated Milks		60
Number of consumer samples for biological tests		30
Number of inspections made during the year		47

Of the 60 samples of Tuberculin Tested Milks taken, only one failed to reach the prescribed standard.

No Notices were served during the year under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

ICE CREAM.

Number of premises registered for the manufacture and sale (two only manufactured during the year)	5
Number of premises registered for sale only	33
Premises from which ice cream is sold, but exempt from registration	5
Inspection of premises	83
Number of samples	74

ICE CREAM (Continued).

Of the samples, 69 were placed in Provisional Grades 1 and 11, and only 5 failed. The laboratory list of course is not a statutory one, but is one which is used as a guide to Local Authorities, and should indicate faults in manufacture and handling.

The Ice Cream trade is no longer seasonal, the habit of eating ice cream all the year round has been created, possibly due to the rationing of sweets.

Little trouble is experienced nowadays with ice cream production, and I think this shows what can be achieved by co-operation between the trade and officers of Local Authorities. Wrapped ice cream is now the rule rather than the exception, and this is all to the good.

In 1951 the Ministry of Food made an Order setting out standards for the composition of ice cream. Briefly, this provided that ice cream should contain a minimum of 5 per cent. fat, 10 per cent. sugar, and $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. milk solids, other than fat. These are, of course, minimum standards, and some companies do produce an ice cream with a 10 per cent. fat content. As the Order is administered by the County Council, no information is available as to the composition of ice cream sold in the Borough.

